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Ambition for North Shields and the Fish Quay

February 2024

Hello and welcome to our latest edition of the Ambition for North Shields and the Fish Quay newsletter.

This is a regular bulletin to keep you up to date with progress on our ambitious masterplan regeneration projects in North Shields town centre and riverside.

In this edition you'll find the latest updates on:

1. Riverside Embankment Walkway
2. Residents' Drop-In
3. Town Square Naming Event
4. Stephenson Street Gateway
5. Bedford Street
6. Northumberland Square Railings
7. Heritage Action Zone Tour

Our ambition for North Shields aims to create a more vibrant town centre with more flexible retail opportunities, expanding the evening and weekend economy and improving the quality of public space in the town centre.

[Find out more](#)

Riverside Embankment Walkway



The piling phase of the works on the Embankment Walkway is now complete. This means that the noisiest part of the project is over. We apologise to residents and businesses for the noise and disruption and thank them for their patience as this complex and ambitious project continues.

There have been some additional minor delays due to a series of named storms over the winter of 2023/2024. These have brought high winds, forcing our contractor Willmott Dixon to pause the works for short periods.

Willmott Dixon will now start on the construction phase, which we expect to be much quieter.

There is an ongoing need to site a crane on Liddell Street until an estimated date of May 2024. At this point the road will reopen.

The crane situated on Tyne Street has been removed from site the week commencing February 12th.

The estimated completion date for the project is December 2024.

Businesses along the Fish Quay remain fully open for business, with access via Tanners Bank and Brewhouse Bank and ample free parking at the Low Lights car park/ Fish Quay Sands.

Embankment Walkway Residents' Drop-In

All are welcome at a drop-in information session hosted by North Tyneside Council and our construction partners Willmott Dixon, to provide progress updates and answer questions.

Where: Tyne View Room at the Maritime Chambers, Howard Street NE30 1LZ

When: Monday 18 March 4pm - 6pm

If anyone cannot make this session we will be hosting more in future.

Residents won't miss out on any key updates as we will be writing to them by post with progress reports on a monthly basis going forward.

Town Square Naming Event



In 2023 we invited people to be part of history by helping to name the new Town Square in North Shields.

We asked the public to vote on a new name for the square from a shortlist of four significant local figures: Ellen Lee, the heroic ARP warden who saved more than 30 lives during a wartime raid on George Street; Thomas Brown, the George Medal winner who retrieved the Enigma codes at sea; Charles Minto, the champion boxer and civil rights activist; and Mary Ann Macham, the abolitionist who settled in North Shields.

The name of the new Town Square will be revealed at 10am on Friday March 15th at an unveiling event. All are welcome.

Stephenson Street Gateway



Works are progressing well at the A193 Albion Road/Stephenson Street junction.

The teams are focused on the areas outside North Tyneside Magistrates' Court, near Kiki's Cabin and outside the Masonic Hall. There are minor pedestrian diversions in place, which are clearly signposted on site, and two-way traffic flow is being maintained.

During these works, three bus stops are out of use. There are alternative stops within suitable walking distance. Please visit www.nexus.org for more information. Thank you for your patience in the meantime.

Next, the team outside the Masonic Hall will move to the southern side of the A193 Albion Road, near the junction with Upper Norfolk Street. The team will work with businesses to ensure access is maintained. This may involve delivering the more disruptive tasks outside of business operating hours. More information will be shared with residents and businesses directly impacted by these works.

Bedford Street



A major programme of improvements for Bedford Street is due to start in late Spring 2024. The street will be repaved, with mature trees and seating added.

The works will be carried out by the Council's construction partners Capita.

Government funding has been secured as part of the North East devolution deal ahead of the new North East Mayoral Combined Authority being formed in May.

The scheme will have a high-quality finish, bringing it up to the same standard as other regeneration sites in the town. This will connect and support the completed and ongoing works at the Transport Hub, Howard Street, Northumberland Square, and the Riverside Embankment Walkway linking the Fish Quay to the town centre.

Vehicular access to Bedford Street will be restricted once the new layout is in place, with access for emergency services. This is because safety concerns have been raised with the Council by members of the public about vehicles and pedestrians coming into conflict.

Council officers have been engaging with and will continue to work with businesses located on Bedford Street to discuss their needs. Access will be maintained so they can continue trading throughout the works.

Northumberland Square Railings



Work is underway to start to reinstate railings along the edge of Northumberland Square closest to North Shields Customer First Centre.

This will complete the perimeter of the square, which has been restored close to its original Georgian layout as part of the Heritage Action Zone project, using funding from Historic England.

The work is being carried out by our construction partners Capita. There will be some temporary fencing around the existing hedges while the works are in progress.

There will be no disruption to pedestrians, no impact on access to the Customer First Centre and no impact on any of the adjacent disabled parking bays.

Works will take around six weeks, weather permitting. We thank everyone for their patience while this is completed.

Heritage Action Zone Tour



The four-year North Shields Heritage Action Zone programme is drawing to a close. The scheme has used funding from Historic England to bring lasting improvements to Howard Street, Northumberland Square and Northumberland Place, and benefits to the communities who use them.

The Heritage Action Zone aims to breathe new life into local high streets, from regenerating historic buildings to engaging local communities through art and cultural projects.

On Tuesday March 5th, Dr Lucy Jessop, senior Architectural Investigator at Historic England, will lead two 90-minute walks around the recently restored Northumberland Square.

Using historic maps and images, she will explore the history of the square and its buildings, and consider the changing design of its garden over two centuries.

The historic Northumberland Square conservation area is considered the nearest thing Tyneside has to the celebrated Georgian squares of London, Bath, Edinburgh, and Dublin. Works in 2021 and 2022 saw it taken back to something close to its original Georgian layout of footpaths and a perimeter of trees.

You must book ahead to secure a place, [via this link](#) or the QR code below.



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Council**

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